

- improve the financial viability of new mining projects.
- (iii) The capital base of Coal India Limited has been restructured to enable it to raise additional financial resources from the capital markets which are required to add new coal production capacity
  - (iv) Steps are being taken in co-ordination with the Railways to remove the transportation bottlenecks in such coalfield areas which have potential for enhanced.
  - (v) Steps are being taken to remove the bottlenecks in land acquisition and forest land clearances
  - (vi) Private sector companies engaged in production of iron and steel, cement and generation of power have been permitted to take up coal mining for captive consumption. This is expected to increase domestic coal production.

[English]

#### **Pending Insurance Claims of Vehicles**

409. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of insurance claims of vehicles pending for the last one to two years, two to three years, three to five years and five years and above and the amount involved therein separately in Maharashtra, company-wise;

(b) the details of fresh initiatives taken to upgrade the system for efficient and speedy settlement of cases and eradication of malpractices in claim settlement; and

(c) the number of fake claims detected during the last three years in Maharashtra and the action taken against the persons found involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Loss Suffered by MMTC in Gold Export Scam**

410. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total loss suffered by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) in the gold export scam including the principal amount, customs duty and interest;

(b) the details of frauds unearthed at Jhandewalan Jewellery Complex and the Noida Export Processing Zone;

(c) whether these frauds have been reported to the Central Bureau of Investigation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the particulars of officials of MMTC rewarded for unearthing the frauds;

(f) the particulars of officials of MMTC who were penalised for violating Exim Policy by issuing gold on loan basis without any bank guarantee and the nature of penalty imposed; and

(g) the present status of the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Against a total supply of 36,487 kg. of gold to exporters between 1993-94 and 1995-96. MMTC has reported default of 172 kgs. of gold valued at Rs. 6.88 crores as outstanding against a few exporter in exporting gold jewellery under the schemes at para 88 of the Exim Policy.

(b) Five exporters in Jhandewalan Gold Jewellery Complex and fifteen exporters in Noida Export Processing Zone have defaulted under the scheme as reported by MMTC.

(c) and (d). Six cases relating to default have been referred to Central Bureau of Investigation.

(e) to (g). The Government have constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group under the Chairmanship of Commissioner (Customs), Delhi to take coordinated action against defaulting exporters of gold jewellery. Action has been pursued by MMTC in all cases of default in association with Director General of Foreign Trade, Custom Department, Directorate of Enforcement, Revenue Intelligence and Central Bureau of Investigation. Action has also been initiated by MMTC to ascertain negligence if any on the part of MMTC officials.

#### **Customs Duty Defaulters**

411. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the several private companies and many Government undertakings are among the defaulters in Customs Duty transaction; and

(b) if so, the details of such companies and the legal action being taken by the Government to prevent such practice?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the names of companies can be furnished is the time period for which the information is sought if available. However, the Government has taken legal steps to prevent the tendency on the part of importers to delay the payment of customs duty by enacting appropriate legislation. Section 28AA of the

Customs Act, 1962 which has been enacted in Finance Act, 1995 provides for imposition of interest @ 20% on the amount the payment of which is delayed by the importer. In addition, Section 142 (I) (C) (ii) has been introduced by Finance Act, 1995, enabling the officers of the Department to distrain any movable or immovable property belonging to the said importer and cause the said property to be sold and appropriate the sale proceeds towards the sums due to the Government.

#### Rubber and Coffee under OGL

412. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rubber and Coffee have been put under OGL in the new import policy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation against it; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). Under the current Export and Import Policy, as amended, import of natural rubber continues to be restricted. However, import of the same is permitted against freely transferable Special Import Licences. Import of coffee roasted not decaffeinated and decaffeinated coffee in bulk packaging is freely permitted.

Some representations have been received in respect of coffee and since review of Export and Import Policy is an ongoing process, changes, if any, in the Policy may be made as and when considered necessary in public interest.

#### Jute Cess Fund

413. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases of diversion of jute cess fund have come to the notice of the Government during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against the persons responsible for this diversion of funds; and

(c) the amount of Jute Cess Fund collected during the last two years together with the details of heads under which it was spent?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA).

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The figures of total jute cess collections during the last two years are as under :

Year	Cess collected
1994-95	Rs. 1692 lakhs
1995-96	Rs. 1254 lakhs

The Jute Cess Fund is collected and credited to the Consolidated Fund of India. Every year, the Government releases funds to Jute Manufactures Development Council (JMDC) from out of the proceeds of Jute Cess Funds, so collected, which are utilised mainly towards Market Promotion activities. The JMDC utilises a part of the grant received towards Training and Development by allocating funds to the Institute of Jute Technology. The year-wise utilisation of grants towards Training and Marketing activities are as follows :

Year	Training Expenses	Promotional Expenses
1994-95	Rs. 30.00 lakhs	Rs. 1625.38 lakhs
1995-96	Rs. 33.75 lakhs	Rs. 2630.93 lakhs (including arrears)

#### Decline in Export

414. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :  
SHRI A.C. JOSE :  
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in export trade during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor indicating the volume and value alongwith the figures of export trade of major commodities/goods during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(c) whether the Government have received any suggestions from various Export Promotion Councils to accelerate/export growth; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir. As per latest data available from DGCI and S, exports during April-Sept., 1996 are valued at US \$ 16.14 billion representing a growth of 9.9% over the level of exports valued at US \$ 14.68 billion in April-Sept., 1995.

(b) India's total exports (DGCI and S data) for 1994-95 were valued at US \$ 26.33 billion and for 1995-96 at US \$ 31.83 billion.